

**Hidden Woods Fire-safe Model Community Project
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
2004**

The Hidden Woods Homeowners' Association, in partnership with Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District (TDFPD), Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU), Nevada Fire Safe Council, and the Nevada Resource Conservation District, is making their neighborhood a model of a fire-safe community on the east shore of Lake Tahoe. The Hidden Woods Fire Safe Council received a grant for \$40,000 from the Nevada Fire Safe Council for fuels reduction on private lots. TDFPD also set aside \$36,000 out of their fuels budget to offset overtures on the project. LTBMU contributed to the project by completing hazard fuels reduction in the USFS property surrounding the community. The area was hand-thinned and piled in August 2004. Piles will be burned when they are sufficiently cured.



USFS land behind Hidden Woods neighborhood before (left) and after hand thinning and piling.



Class A roofs are being installed on all homes with combustible roofs, which the homeowners are paying for themselves. Homeowners have also been creating landscaping with defensible space in mind.

Fuels reduction and community involvement came to the forefront in Lake Tahoe in 2004 with development of a basin-wide Community Fire Plan. Resource projects in Lake Tahoe basin have an ultimate goal of protecting the lake's clarity. Hazard fuel reduction projects reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire, which in turn protects water quality as well as communities. The Hidden Woods neighborhood project is an example of citizen action and interagency cooperation. They have set an example for other neighborhoods. The nearby Cave Rock Estates is following the example and has established a new chapter of the Fire Safe Council. Cave Rock is now in the initial stages of outreach to residents and working with agencies on a fuels reduction plan.

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